



DHS Matters!

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Submit stories by e-mail to DHS-Newsletter@michigan.gov

DHS administrator receives 2007 special recognition award

Stephanie Miller of Wayne DHS cited as outstanding child advocate

From Kelly D. Small
Vista Maria, Dearborn
Ksmall@vistamaria.org

DEARBORN HEIGHTS—Vista Maria, a community that transforms the lives of children who have faced abuse, neglect and other challenges, awarded the Vista Maria 2007 Outstanding Child Advocate Award to **Stephanie Miller**, interim director of Child and Family Services for Wayne County DHS. The awards ceremony was held in conjunction with Vista Maria's annual board meeting Oct. 26 in Dearborn.

"Ms. Miller has been an advocate of the Intensive Supportive Foster Care Program since Vista Maria and The Guidance Center first proposed the collaborative concept," said Cameron D. Hosner, president and CEO of Vista Maria. "Vista Maria is committed to rebuilding lives and healing families for this generation and those to come."



Stephanie Miller, center, was awarded the outstanding child advocate award by Vista Maria. She appears with Vista Maria officials: (from left) Michigan Supreme Court Justice and board chair Robert Young Jr., president and CEO Cameron Hosner, and chief operating officer Patricia Lynett.

Photo courtesy Vista Maria

Miller joined four other community volunteers honored by Vista Maria. They were Angela Aufdemberge of Entertainment Publications for outstanding board leadership, Rock Financial for outstanding corporate partner, Nikole Schmith for outstanding mentor, and Brenda and Daniel Blue for outstanding foster parents. In addition, staff awards were given for longevity and team dedication. The honorees were recognized for outstanding dedication to the agency over the past year. More than 140 community supporters, volunteers, board and advisors and family members attended the event.

Founded in 1883 by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Vista Maria is Michigan's largest non-profit residential and community-based treatment agency for abused and neglected girls. The agency serves girls ages 11-17 from across Michigan with treatment for mental health, substance abuse, trauma recovery, and other psychosocial issues. Gender-responsive treatment programs introduce, model and reinforce strong, positive messages about being female. The agency's mission is to transition high-risk girls into productive, healthy adulthood through a comprehensive continuum of care in their home communities when possible.

Vista Maria's Intensive Supportive Foster Care Program is a reunification and community reintegration program for children ages 6-17 that are severely emotionally disturbed. The program places them with highly trained therapeutic foster families.

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Sarah Sorter and son Robert with the Large Randy Rooster (volunteer Lorraine Katschor).
Monroe's pumpkin giveaway

From Polly Fredericks
 Monroe County DHS, Monroe
FredericksP@michigan.gov

Monroe County DHS had its annual **Pumpkin Give Away** for local children Oct. 29. CPS worker Lisa Millyard coordinated this event with a local farmer who donated a truck load of small pumpkins every year for the event. Monroe had a paid casual day to support this event. There were donuts for everyone who came and treat bags filled with candy and informative safety materials for the children and their families. The kids loved it! *Most of them anyway; a couple of them hid.*



The Cook family with that rooster and pink-haired witch [Lisa Millyard](#), a CPS specialist that organized the event.

elsewhere at Halloween...



DHS Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing showed their holiday spirit by dressing up and having some of the employees children and grandchildren come in to trick or treat. Above, bureau staff [Dana McCarrick](#) and [Jennifer Weikel-Ockert](#), [DeAnna Clark](#), [Sharron Siedelberg](#), [Vickie Stewart](#), [Mona Jildeah](#) and [Jonathan Shunk](#). Inset: Some bureau employees' children and grandson arrived for treat or treat.



– From [DeAnna Clark](#)

Date: Nov. 5
To: Louise Wing, Acting Director
DHS Income Support Programs, Lansing
Subj: Michelle Best

This note is to let you know that I was very impressed by the very helpful and friendly nature of Michelle Best on some questions that I had regarding Medicaid.

Mohammad Yusaf, P.E.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Lansing

■ Michelle Best is manager of Medical Assistance Programs.

Date: Nov. 5
To: DHS Matters! readers
Subj: Correction

A story about the Shawono Center in the Nov. 1 issue said the center was licensed for males and females ages 12-20. This is incorrect. The center is licensed to serve only males.

Date: Nov. 1
To: DHS Matters!
Subj: Serve, service, serviced

(I) loved the article by Susan Bailey-Carman in the (Nov. 1) newsletter. I had been taught that serviced meant: (1) fixing an inanimate object ("I had my car serviced by the mechanic") or 2) breeding a living creature ("We had our purebred mare serviced.") Therefore, I really wince when someone talks about DHS staff servicing our clients.

Karen Sue Foster

Sanilac DHS, Sandusky

Date: Oct. 24
To: DHS-Net
Subj: DHS Customer Service Center

From all of the staff of Section 8, at the Lansing Housing Commission, we would like to compliment your customer service staff. They are always so friendly and helpful when we call and make our jobs so much easier! Thanks a bunch to the following lovely ladies that we talk to on a daily basis. **Jan Price, Anne Hutton, Haniyyah Qawwee**, and a special thanks to **Colleen Binns**, she is the best! Also thank you to all of the ladies who complete so many of our forms for us, **Maria Torres, Linda Walker** and everyone else that I might have missed! You are all spectacular!"

Lisa (Krall), Linda, Erica, Lynnette, and Angie

Section 8 Assistants

Lansing Housing Commission, Lansing

■ Lisa Krall sent this notice to DHS-Net via Internet email. "You are more than welcome to use my compliments in your newsletter," she said. "The five of us are...employed by HUD which is a federally funded subsidized housing program. Much of our job function is to verify income for our clients when doing annual exams and income changes. We rely greatly on the DHS customer service team to help us with verifying such things as food stamps and cash grants. They are absolutely wonderful!"

Date: Oct. 10
To: Kay Andrzejak, District Manager
Wayne County Adult Medical Services, Redford
Subj: Beverly Mathews

On Oct. 5 I told Beverly Mathews about a crisis I was involved in. Mrs. Mathews knows me from the past. She listened to my detail and my concern and my urgency. She took the proper actions to help me out. I have thanked Mrs. Mathews as much as I can for her kindness, her courtesy, her professional attitude, and for dealing with me to help me out. I am speech-impaired. Please tell Mrs. Mathews how grateful and happy I am that she helped me as she did. I was in a crisis situation, called Mrs. Mathews (and) she showed me why she is a supervisor. She takes care of business, does what she has to, and keeps people safe, healthy (and) alive. Please thank her for her wonderful action. She went beyond the call of duty to make sure I'm OK. My phone goes to my automated system because I am handicapped and can't pick up the phone when it rings. Please thank Beverly Mathews for all she's doing. She definitely is a special person to me.

Robert Schorr

Wayne County

■ Beverly Mathews is an adult services manager in Wayne County. Robert Schorr left this message by voice mail. He resides in Wayne County and requested his hometown be confidential.

Your letters,
intercepted
and otherwise

DHS Matters! is a product of Michigan's Department of Human Services
Ismael Ahmed, Director • Karen Stock, Director, Office of Communications
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